

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH ALERT

Baltimore City Health Department Warns of Multi-State Mumps Outbreak

Baltimore, MD- April 18, 2006- The state of Iowa has recently been experiencing a large outbreak of mumps. Many of the cases are occurring among persons 18-25 years of age, the majority of whom are vaccinated. In addition, the Iowa Department of Public Health has identified two persons diagnosed with mumps who were potentially infectious during travel on nine different commercial flights involving two airlines between March 26, 2006 and April 2, 2006. Although one of those case-patients traveled to Washington, D.C., to date no Maryland residents are among those passengers identified as potentially exposed to either of the two case-patients who traveled on commercial airlines.

In response to the ongoing mumps outbreak in the Midwest, the **Baltimore City Health Department** recommends:

1. Vaccination of persons in the following groups with a second dose of MMR if they do not have evidence of immunity and/or documentation of previously receiving two doses of the vaccine:
 - a. Healthcare workers
 - b. School-aged children
 - c. Students at post-high school educational institutions (e.g., colleges and universities)
2. Heightened suspicion for mumps in persons with parotitis or other salivary gland inflammation.
3. Immediate reporting of suspected mumps cases to BCHD so that appropriate laboratory testing and isolation can be implemented as quickly as possible. A history of any travel within the 30 days prior to illness onset should be obtained from all suspected cases.
4. Isolation of suspected mumps cases at least while the evaluation is being completed, and longer if mumps is confirmed or suspicion remains high after the initial evaluation. In health care settings, suspected cases should be isolated using respiratory precautions.

For mumps symptoms usually begin 14 to 25 days after exposure. Symptoms to look for include fever, swollen and tender salivary glands (sides of the cheeks) and testes in teenage and adult men. Anyone who has these symptoms should consult their physician. Anyone with questions can call BCHD at 410-396-4454.

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